

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. A method for inventory management utilizing a network-based framework, comprising:

a) receiving data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of goods sold by the stores and determining a predicted demand;

*forecast*  
*Sharp* b) ? identifying a recipe associated with each of the goods; (i.e., what raw materials are needed)

c) calculating information on processed products required to produce the goods based on the data and the recipe; and

*Duffy* ✓ d) registering suppliers and/or distributors with a marketplace;

✓ e) tracking past supplier and/or distributor performance in at least one marketplace in which they are registered;

f) outputting the information on the processed products and information on the past supplier and/or distributor performance in a marketplace and the predicted demand to a supply chain manager utilizing the network for *the user of the system* managing the supply chain; and

*management book* g) the supply chain manager managing the suppliers and/or distributors based on the information on the processed products and the past supplier and/or distributor performance information and the predicted demand.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data includes an amount of the goods.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the recipe indicates a type and an amount of the processed products required to produce each of the goods.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information indicates a type and an amount of the processed products.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is outputted utilizing a network-based interface.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

7. A system for inventory management utilizing a network-based framework, comprising:

a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of goods sold by the stores and determining a predicted demand;

b) logic for identifying a recipe associated with each of the goods;

c) logic for calculating information on processed products required to produce the goods based on the data and the recipe; ~~and~~

d) logic for registering suppliers and/or distributors with a marketplace;

e) logic for tracking past supplier and/or distributor performance in at least one marketplace in which they are registered;

f) logic for outputting the information on the processed products and information on the past supplier and/or distributor performance in a marketplace and the predicted demand to a supply chain manager utilizing the network for managing the supply chain; and

g) logic for the supply chain manager managing the suppliers and/or distributors based on the information on the processed products and the past supplier and/or distributor performance information and the predicted demand

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data includes an amount of the goods.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the recipe indicates a type and an amount of the processed products required to produce each of the goods.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein the information indicates a type and an amount of the processed products.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the information is outputted utilizing a network-based interface.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

13. A computer program product for inventory management utilizing a network-based framework, comprising:

a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of goods sold by the stores and determining a predicted demand;

b) computer code for identifying a recipe associated with each of the goods;

c) computer code for calculating information on processed products required to produce the goods based on the data and the recipe; ~~and~~

d) computer code for registering suppliers and/or distributors with a marketplace;

e) tracking past supplier and/or distributor performance in at least one marketplace in which they are registered;

f) computer code for outputting the information on the processed products and information on the past supplier and/or distributor performance in a marketplace and the predicted demand to a supply chain manager utilizing the network for managing the supply chain; and

g) computer code for the supply chain manager managing the suppliers and/or distributors based on the information on the processed products and the past supplier and/or distributor performance information and the predicted demand.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data includes an amount of the goods.

15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the recipe indicates a type and an amount of the processed products required to produce each of the goods.

16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the information indicates a type and an amount of the processed products.

17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the information is outputted utilizing a network-based interface.

18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.